

May 22, 2000

TO: Federal-State Management Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk

SUBJECT: Meeting Outcomes - May 16, 2000

The following is a summary of outcomes from the CALFED Federal-State Management Group meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2000.

1. Announcements and Followup

- EIS/EIR Schedule - Alf Brandt, Club FED Coordinator, briefly discussed the timing of significant CALFED-related events and elements that will lead to the CALFED Decision/Record of Decision.
- Multi-Species Conservation Strategy - Marti Kie, CALFED staff, called upon Jim Monroe, USBR, to reiterate his instructions given at the March 28th Management Group meeting. He had provided recommended language to be used in a letter regarding the Endangered Species Act to be sent to USBR from each of the co-lead agencies to express concurrence with the findings of the Biological Assessment prepared for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. USBR would then transmit this information to USFWS and NMFS for the purpose of initiating joint formal Section 7 consultation over possible impacts to species listed under the ESA that may result from the implementation of the Program. Marti Kie sent each agency a copy of the Multi-Species Conservation Strategy on April 21 for consideration as the biological assessment. Each co-lead agency must review it and give its support to the Bureau so it can start the consultation process. She had only heard from two of the co-lead agencies.

Outcome: Chris Beal, Department of Fish and Game; and Jim Monroe, USBR, will work with each co-lead agency to guide them through the process.

- Joint Hearing: Senate Agriculture and Water Resources (Senator Costa) and Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committees (Assemblyman Machado). The subject of the hearing scheduled for May 17 at 1:30 p.m. was "Sound Science: CALFED Decision that Benefit the Environment and Water Supply". Robert Hight, Director of Department of Fish and Game; Patrick Wright, Resources Agency; Jim Lecky, NMFS; and Mike Spear, USFWS, were scheduled to appear, as was a representative from the Association of California Water Agencies.

Outcome: The agency hearing participants would develop a presentation for the hearing.

- May Revision of the Governor's FY 2000-01 Budget. The final budget determinations have not yet been made. The Assembly and Senate budget committees would vote later in the week on the Governor's May Revision. There is Proposition 204 funding earmarked for projects south of the Delta. It was strongly felt even projects south of the Delta should be linked to the CALFED package because of interties between most California projects.

Steve Ritchie said he personally felt they would need one to two years to get momentum going though it would be expected by many that it would take much less time.

2. **Status Report on Science Oversight Team** - Larry Smith, USGS and SOT member, reviewed the team's latest efforts. Mike Spear, USFWS, felt it important to have a good process in place for shaping the science agenda. This would include those who have a lot at stake having a voice in shaping it, and that it should not be just an in-house job.

Perry Herrgesell, DFG and SOT member, will generate a one-page document on the science center to be shown to stakeholders and the academic community. He said it was SOT's idea to bring a recommendation back to the Management Group around July 1.

- Interim Science Board meeting - Dick Daniel reported on the recent Interim Science Board meeting. The members are 11 individuals with a broad range of experience. They will continue to meet every two months and will provide formal recommendations. They had advised CALFED on the ecosystem proposal package. Their role will be to review to see how to improve science in each project. The meeting is broken into three parts: first part to interact with staff, then interact among themselves and then open the meeting to the general public. The next meeting is scheduled for late June.
3. **May 24, 2000 Policy Group Agenda** - Mary Selkirk, Policy Group Coordinator, stated there would be an abbreviated Policy Group meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The focus of the meeting would be to receive the Bay-Delta Advisory Council's report on its recommendations for the "CALFED Solution", which it would finalize at the May 17 BDAC meeting.
 - Environmental Justice Policy Recommendation - Mary reported there would be a CALFED staff proposed CALFED Environmental Justice Policy with three recommendations presented for Policy Group consideration. Mike Boots, US EPA, and John Lowry, CALFED, will be Federal-State contact.
 - Expenditures of Ecosystem Restoration Projects - Peter Jacobsen, CALFED staff, presented CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program's response to comments made by Greg Gartrell, Contra Costa Water District and Co-Chair of the Ecosystem Restoration Roundtable, at the Policy Group meeting on April 19. Mr Gartrell had stated the spreadsheet released by CALFED's Ecosystem Program indicates there has been no work done on a number of DFG and DWR projects. The document distributed contained an explanations of why a zero-dollar expenditure appeared on 88 of the 268 Ecosystem Restoration projects. The explanations ranged from new processes in both the Federal

and State accounting offices to controversies over State and Federal contracting regulations.

Outcome: CALFED staff would prepare such a document for distribution at the BDAC meeting the following day.

- Ecosystem Restoration Program Update - Mary reported that the ERP Focus Group that was formed to develop a set of consensus policy recommendations regarding long-term, priority-setting and implementation of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program, would present memoranda outlining these consensus recommendations:
 - Revisions to the Goals and Objectives in the ERP strategic Plan
 - Establishing a single blueprint for ecosystem restoration
 - Setting of priorities

It was suggested the document also contain more information on the other 180 projects, which are moving forward.